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Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DIWY-01 PA-02 CU-04 OES-06 L-03 TRSE-00 /061 W
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R 201354Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1120
USUN NEW YORK 231
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS SOFIA 0861

PARIS FOR UNESCO
ROME FOR FODAG
VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO
MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNDP, EAID
SUBJECT: CERP 0008 -- EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (UNDP)

REF: (A) STATE 072386 (B) SOFIA A-44 OF MARCH 28, 1975

1. WITH REGARD TO UNDP PROGRAM IN BULGARIA SITUATION REMAINS BASICALLY AS DESCRIBED IN REF B. THERE HAS BEEN NO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN BULGARIA SINCE FEBRUARY 1974. CURRENT PROJECTS UNDER UNDP INCLUDE: (A) NIKOLA PUCHKAROV INSTITUTE OF SOIL SCIENCES; (B) KOSTINBROD FEEDMILL PROJECT; (C) CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION; (D) INSTRUMENT DESIGN PROJECT; (E) SHIPBUILDING PROJECT; AND (F) INTERNATIONAL TOURISM CENTER. PROJECTS (B) -- (F) ARE TO CONTINUE UNDER UNDP FUNDING IN 1977-1981 PROGRAM CYCLE. PROJECT (F) IS TO BEGIN THIS YEAR.
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2. BULGARIANS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH COUNTRY

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PROGRAMMING PROCESS, STATING THAT RELATIONS WITH PROJECT DIRECTORS ARE QUITE GOOD. PROGRAMS ARE SCREENED BY HOST COUNTRY BEFORE SUBMISSION FOR UNDP APPROVAL. PROGRAMS ARE COORDINATED WITH BULGARIAN RESEARCH EFFORTS, BUT NOT WITH INTER-CEMA EFFORTS. EXTENT OF DUPLICATE ACTIVITY IS UNKNOWN.

3. CURRENT BUDGET IS $7.5 MILLION AND SAME AMOUNT IS INDICATED FOR 1977-1981 PROGRAMS. BULGARIAN OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ACKNOWLEDGED NO BUDGET CUTS FOR EITHER CURRENT OR UPCOMING CYCLE. HOWEVER, AMERICAN EXPERT INTERVIEWED BY EMBOFF ACKNOWLEDGED A CUT OF ALL UNALLOCATED 1976 FUNDS ($150,000) ON KOSTINBROD PROJECT. CONTRADICTION APPEARS DUE TO FACT THAT FUNDS ARE NOT YET ALLOCATED TO BULGARIANS FOR SPECIFIC USE. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON BUDGET CUTS IN OTHER PROJECTS.

4. AMERICAN EXPERT INTERVIEWED STATED THAT KOSTINBROD PROJECT WAS BEHIND SCHEDULE ON HIS ARRIVAL. IN SPITE OF DELAY, EXPERT FELT THAT PROJECT WAS MOVING FORWARD. HIS COMMENTS INDICATE THAT YOUNG BULGARIANS ARE FLEXIBLE AND CO-OPERATIVE, WHILE OLDER OFFICIALS ARE LESS WILLING TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS. DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF KOSTINBROD PROJECT MEANS THAT SOME ACTIVITIES WILL BE PUSHED INTO NEXT PROGRAM CYCLE. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT DELAY IS DUE TO BUDGET REDUCTIONS. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER PROJECTS. JUDGING FROM AVAILABLE INFORMATION, IT APPEARS THAT BULGARIANS ARE BENEFITING FROM PROGRAMS FUNDED BY UNDP EVEN THOUGH SOME PROJECTS MAY NOT BE PROGRESSING AS PLANNED.

5. PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR UPCOMING CYCLE, IN ADDITION TO CONTINUING PROJECTS LISTED IN PARA (1), INCLUDE (A) MACHINE TOOLS PROJECTS (B) VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT, AND (C) SEMINARS FOR LDC'S TO SHARE INFORMATION DEVELOPED THROUGH COMPLETED AND CONTINUING PROJECTS. NO INFORMATION ON SPECIFICS FOR THESE PROJECTS IS AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY, BUT NATURE OF PROJECTS IS WELL
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WITHIN AREAS WHERE BULGARIA HAS DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL, BOTH FOR ITS OWN AND THIRD COUNTRY BENEFIT.

6. EMBASSY EMPHASIZES THAT CONTACT WITH UNDP PROGRAMS IS LIMITED AND THAT INFORMATION IS PROBABLY BETTER AVAILABLE FROM US REPRESENTATION IN UNDP THAN FROM THIS EMBASSY.
FELDMAN

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